

D. Remarks

The last Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and the above amendments are presented in order to place this application in condition for allowance.

Applicant has revised the claims in this case in a sincere attempt to overcome the Examiner's various objections under 35 U.S.C. §112.

More specifically, it is believed that each of the elements of the claims contain proper antecedent basis. In addition, the claims have been revised so that the bars are referred to as merely for intended use purposes and not as part of the claimed combinations.

Turning to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 in view of the Dennert reference, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

In Dennert, the looped ends of the reinforcing bars surround an offset cam member 7 which is mounted for rotation with a bearing 8 having an axis of rotation 5. Thus, the element 7 acts as a cam such that when the bearing 8 is turned the cam pulls on the loop of the reinforcing rod, as shown on the left in Fig. 2, to tension the same. On the other hand, when the bearing is turned in the opposite direction, the loop is released from engagement in the cam track 12.

Applicant's invention operates on an entirely different principle. It utilizes a two element assembly, one element of which has one or more bearing seats for engaging the looped end of a reinforcing bar; the other element is a retainer that is slidably movable into the bar seat section in order to wedge the loops in place against the seats. The retainer, in this way, resists movement of the bar, under compression loads, away from the seat. On

the other hand, tension loads on the bar are resisted by the seat. Accordingly, loads are resisted in both directions. That simply does not occur with the Dennert structure.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the bar retainer is movable transversely relative to the seat section for movement between a first position allowing a reinforcing bar to be placed on the seat section and a second position which blocks removal of the bar from the assembly. The single element structure of the Dennert reference does not contain a body having a bar seat section and also a bar retainer movable transversely relative to that seat section. Accordingly, Claim 1 and the claims which depend therefrom distinguishes over the Dennert reference.

Claim 2 has been converted to an independent claim, and also specifies that the invention includes a bar retainer section that is movable transversely relative to a separate seat section, with the main body having an opening, and the seat section formed therein. The claim additionally specifies that the retainer is a bridging member adapted to bridge across the opening, and that the components are dimensioned such that a rigid portion of the assembly is located between bars to be mounted in the assembly to resist compression forces which tend to force the bars towards each other, while the loop section seat resists deformation of the loop under tension. Nothing in Dennert discloses this structure.

The claims which depend from Claims 1 and/or 2 provide additional details for the structure of the invention and are allowable with Claims 1 and 2 for the reasons discussed above.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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